

STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 2, 2010

Call to Order. A regular meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission was called to order by Anita Dodd, at 3:11 PM, Thursday, September 2, 2010 in Conference Room ABC, Stafford County Administration Center.

Roll Call. The following members were present: Anita Dodd, Chairperson, Ann Best-Rolls, Vice-Chairperson; Jane Conner; Barbara Kirby and Frank White. Cessie Howell, Secretary was absent.

Also present were Kathy Baker, Assistant Director, Planning & Zoning; Terry Baxley Morton, Commission Clerk.

Presentations by the Public. No one from the public was present

Approval of Commission Minutes. Approval of the June 17, 2010 Commission Special Meeting minutes & the July 1, 2010 Commission regular meeting minutes.

Barbara Kirby motioned, seconded by Frank White to approve the June 17, 2010 Commission Special Meeting minutes as submitted.

The Commission Voting Tally was:

Yea (4) Conner, Dodd, Kirby, White
Nay (0)
Absent (2) Best-Rolls, Howell

Barbara Kirby motioned, seconded by Frank White to approve the July 1, 2010 Commission meeting minutes with one minor correction.

The Commission Voting Tally was:

Yea (3) Dodd, Kirby, White
Nay (0)
Abstain (1) Conner
Absent (2) Best-Rolls, Howell

Virginia Railway Express (VRE) - Cherry Hill Third Track Project - Phase I Archeological Survey. Anita Dodd said she was concerned about the cemetery. She said the suggestion list in the report is acceptable and she wants to make sure VRE staff implements the suggestions given. The Commission decided to submit advice in a correspondence. Anita Dodd said she spoke with the archeological surveyor and was informed the old bridge would not be compromised as the company will build the new bridge next to the old bridge. Commission members were pleased with this decision. Kathy Baker and the Commission decided to send the correspondence cc to Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation (DRPT), VRE and McCormick Taylor, Inc.

House 50 Years or Older - Second Residence to be Constructed - 221 Mount Olive Road - Determination.

Anita Dodd said she has an appointment to visit this site with the owner on September 11, 2010.

Master's Mill & The Steven's House - Update & Information - by Jane Conner. Jane Conner said Cessie Howell contacted Supervisor Cord Sterling regarding the locations. Jane Conner said Kathleen Dwight has a different phone number and she has been unable to reach her. Jane Conner hopes to secure copies of paper work etc. from Supervisor Cord Sterling to share with the Commission.

Ann Best-Rolls arrived at the meeting at 3:22 PM.

Assess & Provide Recommendations to the Agricultural/Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Committee for PDR Criteria Verbiage. At a previous Commission meeting Anita Dodd included Secretary of Interior's Standards for National Register Nominations and various landscaping terms. Kathy Baker said when PDR Committee members consider a property staff wants them to be able to assign points for certain aspects. She said they want to be able to tangibly say for example if the applicant has a 1800s house on the property staff wants them to obtain points for that feature. Barbara Kirby said as an example category A should be worth 18 points. Category B for example may generate more or less points depending on the criteria set forth. Another option is to deem all of the categories worth the same amount of points, equally. Anita Dodd asked if the applicant can be given only one designation. Kathy Baker said that is an example of the input the committee and staff are seeking. She said currently there are three categories of ranking for historical features: 1) property contains or is contiguous to an important historic structure of national, state or local significance or an archeological site 2) the property is associated with an important historic place, event, person or activity 3) the property is established as a familiar visual feature that is part of a historical landscape. She said, currently, the first category is worth 13 points, the second is 8 points and the last is 6 points.

Ann Best-Rolls asked what other communities the criteria was based on. Kathy Baker said there are approximately 14 various localities with this program that staff and the committee has based its criteria on. The language currently in use was taken from a jurisdiction several years ago. She said currently there are several categories where the cap in points is 13. Ann Best-Rolls asked the Historical Commission if it may be advisable to contact the communities that currently have a PDR program. She said the Piedmont Environmental Council is very involved with its foundation for example as well as the Virginia Outdoor Foundation. She said the Commission may benefit from other communities' preservation templates across the Commonwealth. Kathy Baker said the only determination here is: how are they going to get points and what is the cultural resource significance? Anita Dodd said the Commission can decide what the criteria is, but how is the PDR going to make the determination? She asked if they were going to ask the Historical Commission its opinion. Kathy Baker said the last time a decision was made based on these three line-items internal staff made a decision based on its database, information from DHR and in-put from the PDR. She believes one of the purposes in reassessing the criteria is so staff can make the decisions without any gray areas. She said if the criteria includes what the Historical Commission requires the process would not be held up and

need to go before the Historical Commission. She said, however, they are open to suggestions. She said the PDR didn't want the Historical Commission to be bogged down and often there is a time issue.

Barbara Kirby asked Kathy Baker if they could give 10 points to criteria A, B, C and D. She said they would then add 7 points for landscape / view shed. Anita Dodd said their concern, from what she understands, is if they decide on a short sentence like landscape / view shed, are they going to know what that is? Kathy Baker said that can be a problem, that's why they want the criteria to be clear-cut. She said one of the other points the PDR thought of for example is if it's in a historical district or in the DHR database or anything that is tangible. She said everything on the current list is tangible. She said they're looking for a database, a soils map or a land area they can consult to make that determination, so there is no gray area. Kathy Baker said anything that's out there right now is something they can consider. The Commission asked Kathy Baker to look-up other counties PDR criteria and provide them with the information.

Anita Dodd said she would like to see what the current condition of the cultural resource section of the current Comprehensive Plan is. Kathy Baker said the document is on the County's web-site. The latest version of the revision of the plan is June 17, 2010.

Value of Billboards for Future Removal. The Commission Clerk read an e-mail from Cessie Howell regarding brief updates on Billboards and Master's Mill.

Ann Best-Rolls said the signage at the Washington Plaza Wal-Mart was part of the expansion plan. She said she believes the parking lot is finished. She said she does not know if the signage process has begun. She said there is supposed to be signage regarding Franklin's Crossing. Kathy Baker said she would check into the status of the signage. Ann Best-Rolls asked Kathy Baker if the sign to the plaza was to be changed.

Report by Commission Chairperson. Anita Dodd said she met with Mike Lott, Environmental Planner, Planning & Zoning, and viewed a house on Crown Lane in Southgate Hills off Truslow Road. A pedestrian survey was requested of a house on the property. She said she has been on a site visit of the property in the past. She said they recorded the house with photos etc. She believes the original brick structure may have been a church. The deed lists the same owner as in 1920. She said she hopes to get permission from the developer to enter the structure.

Anita Dodd said there was a proffer to have a Phase I Survey completed on property on US-17, Westlake Development, however, the verbiage states a "Pedestrian Study". The County wants to know if the report fulfills the proffer. Barbara Kirby asked to have a copy of the report. The Commission felt the developer did not fulfill the proffer because it states an on-site reconnaissance. The report submitted was not conducted on-site.

Discussion ensued.

Barbara Kirby motioned, seconded by Jane Conner to inform County staff that the report submitted does not fit the criteria of the proffer.

The Commission Voting Tally was:

Yea	(5)	Best-Rolls, Conner, Dodd, Kirby, White
Nay	(0)	
Absent	(1)	Howell

Reports by Commission Members. Barbara Kirby asked for any information available on Walter Harry Finall. She is trying to identify a grave site at the Finall Cemetery in White Oak.

She said a Master Gunnery Sergeant in Aquia Overlook and other Marines completely cleaned both Edrington Cemeteries located in Widewater. She said there are still stones underneath the ground that will require a professional to clear off.

Jane Conner said she received an e-mail from Howard Kelly that said his great grandfather was a physician and one of the founders of Johns Hopkins Hospital. He said when he was a child he remembers his great grandfather told him he was one of the owners of the quarry on Government Island. He had Jane Conner send him a copy of her book and she took him site-seeing in the County.

Jane Conner said the Civil War Park recently received assistance from Vulcan Materials Co. for rock for a pathway.

Frank White said the Gateway to Freedom Committee is having a program at Aquia Landing on Saturday.

Adjournment. At 4:27 PM, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Anita Dodd – Chairperson

Ann Best-Rolls – Vice Chairperson